UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/521,282	03/07/2000	Jacques Belissent	SUN1P602	9227

22434	7590	03/15/2004

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP
P.O. BOX 778
BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778

EXAMINER
DELGADO, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2144	17

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/521,282	BELISSENT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael S. A. Delgado	2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _12 January 2004_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
    closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-26_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1-26_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
        application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)
1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _16_.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 14, 18 and 26 have been considered but

are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3.   Claims 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No.5,

987,508 by Agraharam et al.

        In claim 1 Agraharam teaches about a method for defining a virtual domain in an

electronic messaging system, comprising (Fig 2):

        defining a virtual domain node "recipient alias telephone number email address ..

telephone#@domain_name" corresponding to a real domain name server "actual e-mail address"

in a hierarchically organized directory wherein the hierarchically organized directory is a

hierarchical structure that resembles a tree with one major branch at the top and many branches

and sub-branches below (Col 3, lines 25-50), (Col 4, lines 1-15), (Col 4, lines 45-50); and (The

directory structure of a domain is inherently one of hierarch which has a tree structure).

associating a plurality of virtual domain attributes "PINs" to the virtual domain node

(Col 7, lines 15-30).

For claim 2, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the

plurality of virtual domain attributes include a designated virtual domain administrator

"Interactive Voice Reponses System- IVR" (Col 6, lines 40-50), a designated virtual domain

postmaster (Col 4, lines 40-50) (email address is translated and mail is delivered), a state of the

virtual domain (Col 6, lines 60-67), and a set of allowed services for the virtual domain (email

and directory assistance) (Col 3, lines 25-50), (Col 6, lines 5-10). It is well known in the art that

each email account has to have an associated administrator, postmaster and the status of the

account.

In claim 3, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 2, wherein the state of

the virtual domain node is selected from the list comprising: active, inactive (or suspended), and

deleted (Col 4, lines 35-65) (Col 6, lines 60-67). (Flags are used to show inactivity and

availability). Delete is equivalent to an unregistered user as the action taken is the same in both

cases.

In claim 5, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the tree

based hierarchy is a standard based directory information tree (DIT) "LDAP" that includes a

plurality of directory entries each of which is associated with a higher level (parent) directory

entry (Col 4, lines 1-15). (The directory structure of a domain is inherently one of a hierarchy,

which has a tree structure therefore the structure of the LDAP inherently has to be a tree-like

structure).

In claim 6, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 5, wherein the directory takes the form of a segmented name space "steveg@aftmail.com" (Col 3, lines 25-50). (This is consistent with the form that is use in domain addressing)

In claim 7, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 6, wherein the segmented name space "steveg@aftmail.com" includes a segmented name associated with a user "steveg" that is segmented in such a way that the user is uniquely identified by a unique user name at a first hierarchical level and an associated domain name "aftmail.com" at a higher hierarchical level (Col 3, lines 25-50). (This is consistent with the form that is use in domain addressing)

For claim 8, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 7, wherein during a user name search operation, the user name is initially resolved at the higher hierarchical level and subsequently at the first hierarchical level such that in a multi-domain environment the search operation is performed as if the user name was part of a flat name space (Col 3, lines 50-65).

In claim 9, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 8 further comprising:

defining a routing table based upon the segmented name space "steveg@aftmail.com", wherein the routing table is used by a transfer agent "translation server" to direct an appropriately addressed email message to a receiving user in the virtual domain (Col 3, lines 50-67).

For claim 10, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 9, wherein the segmented name space is based upon the most direct path from the user name to the highest connected hierarchical level in the directory (Col 5, lines 20-35). The most direct path includes phone number and the name of the person.

In claim 11, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the

electronic messaging system is an email messaging system (Col 3, lines 10-20).

For claim 12, Reid teaches about a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the electronic

messaging system is a voicemail messaging system (Col 4, lines 12-25).

In claim 13, Agraharam teaches about a method as recited in claim 10, wherein the

standard based directory is an LDAP based directory (Col 4, lines 1-10).

For claim 14, Agraharam teaches about a computer-readable medium containing

programming instructions for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system, the

computer-readable medium comprising computer program code devices configured to cause a

computer to execute the operations of (Fig 2):

defining a virtual domain node "recipient alias telephone number email address ..

telephone#@domain_name" corresponding to a real (non-virtual) "actual e-mail address"

domain in a hierarchically organized directory wherein the hierarchically organized directory is a

hierarchical structure that resembles a tree with one major branch at the top and many branches

and sub-branches below (Col 3, lines 25-50), (Col 4, lines 1-15), (Col 4, lines 45-50); (The

directory structure of a domain is inherently one of hierarch which has a tree structure) and

associating a plurality of virtual domain attributes "PINs" to the virtual domain node (Col

7, lines 15-30).

In claim 15, Agraharam teaches about a computer-readable medium containing

programming instructions for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system as

recited in claim 10 (Col 5, lines 20-35), wherein the plurality of virtual domain attributes include

a designated virtual domain administrator "Interactive Voice Reponses System- IVR" (Col 6,

lines 40-50), a designated virtual domain postmaster (Col 4, lines 40-50) (email address is

translated and mail is delivered), a state of the virtual domain (Col 6, lines 60-67), and a set of

allowed services for the virtual domain (email and directory assistance) (Col 3, lines 25-50), (Col

6, lines 5-10) and wherein the state of the virtual domain node is selected from the list

comprising: active, inactive (or suspended), and deleted (Flags are used to show inactivity and

availability). Delete is equivalent to an unregistered user as the action taken is the same in both

cases.

For claim 16, Agraharam teaches about a computer-readable medium containing

programming instructions for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system as

recited in claim 15, the computer-readable medium further comprising computer program code

devices configured to cause a computer to execute the operations of (Col 1, lines 40-60):

defining a routing table based upon the segmented name space "steveg@aftmail.com" ,

wherein the routing table is used by a transfer agent "translation server" to direct an

appropriately addressed email message to a receiving user in the virtual domain (Col 3, lines 50-

67).

In claim 17, Agraharam teaches about a computer-readable medium containing

programming instructions for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system as

recited in claim 16, the computer-readable medium further comprising computer program code

devices configured to cause a computer to execute the operations of (Col 1, lines 40-60):

initially resolving a user name during a user name search operation at the higher

hierarchical level and subsequently at the first hierarchical level such that in a multi-

domain environment the search operation is performed as if the user name was part of a

flat name space (Col 3, lines 50-65).

For claim 18, Agraharam teaches about an electronic messaging system having a main

host computer for transferring an incoming message between a sending subscriber and a

receiving subscriber having an associated unique user name, comprising (Col 3, lines 50-67):

a messaging server "translation server" coupled to the host computer arranged to receive

the incoming message from the sending subscriber and arranged to forward the message to the

receiving subscriber based upon the receiving subscriber's user name   (Col 3, lines 50-67);

a hierarchically organized directory coupled to the messaging server arranged to

define a virtual domain node "recipient alias telephone number email address ..

telephone#@domain_name" corresponding to a real (non-virtual) "actual e-mail address"

domain having associated with it a plurality of virtual domain attributes (see claim 2 for detail) to

the virtual domain node wherein the hierarchically organized directory is a hierarchical structure

that resembles a tree with one major branch at the top and many branches and sub-branches

below (Col 3, lines 25-50), (Col 4, lines 1-15), (Col 4, lines 45-50) (The directory structure of a

domain is inherently one of hierarch which has a tree structure);

In claim 19, Agraharam teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim

18, wherein the plurality of virtual domain attributes include a designated virtual domain

administrator "Interactive Voice Reponses System- IVR" (Col 6, lines 40-50), a designated

virtual domain postmaster (Col 4, lines 40-50) (email address is translated and mail is delivered),

a state of the virtual domain(Col 6, lines 60-67) and a set of allowed services for the virtual

domain (email and directory assistance) (Col 3, lines 25-50), (Col 6, lines 5-10). It is well known

in the art that each email account has to have an associated administrator, postmaster and the status of the account.

For claim 20, Agraharam teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 19, wherein the state of the virtual domain node is selected from the list comprising: active, inactive (or suspended), and deleted (Col 4, lines 35-65), (Col 6 lines 60-67) (Flags are used to show inactivity and availability). Delete is equivalent to an unregistered user as the action taken is the same in both cases.

In claim 21, Agraharam teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 20, wherein the hierarchically organized directory is an LDAP based directory information tree (DIT) that includes a plurality of directory entries each of which is associated with a higher level (parent) directory entry and wherein the directory takes the form of a segmented name space (Col 4, lines 1-15). (The directory structure of a domain is inherently one of a hierarchy, which has a tree structure therefore the structure of the LDAP inherently has to be a tree-like structure).

For claim 22, Agraharam teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 21, wherein the user name "steveg@aftmail.com" is segmented in such a way that the user is uniquely identified by a unique userid "steveg" at a first hierarchical level and an associated domain name "aftmail.com" at a higher hierarchical level (Col 3, lines 25-50).

In claim 23, Agraharam teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 22, wherein in order for the messaging server to forward the email message to the receiving subscriber, the messaging server executes a user name search operation (Col 3, lines 50-65).

In claim 24, Agraharam teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 23, wherein the user name search operation comprises:

initially resolving the user name at a highest hierarchical level and subsequently at a

lowest hierarchical level in such a way that when the name search operation is executed in a

multi-domain environment, the search operation is performed as if the user name was part of a

flat name space (Col 3, lines 50-65).

In claim 25, Agraharam teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim

24, wherein the messaging server further includes:

a routing table defined by the directory based upon the resolved receiving subscriber's

user name that defines a path by which the email message is passed from the sending subscriber

to the receiving subscriber (Col 3, line 50-Col 4, line 15); and

a transfer agent "translation server" arranged to direct the email message from the

sending subscriber to the receiving subscriber as defined by the routing table (Col 3, lines 50-

67).

In claim 26 Agraharam teaches about a method for defining a virtual domain in an

electronic messaging system, comprising (Fig 2):

defining a virtual domain node "recipient alias telephone number email address ..

telephone#@domain_name" corresponding to a real domain name server "actual e-mail address"

in a hierarchically organized directory wherein the hierarchically organized directory is a

hierarchical structure that resembles a tree with one major branch at the top and many branches

and sub-branches below (Col 3, lines 25-50), (Col 4, lines 1-15), (Col 4, lines 45-50); and (The

directory structure of a domain is inherently one of hierarch which has a tree structure).

associating a plurality of virtual domain attributes to the virtual domain node such that a

virtual domain in an electronic messaging system is defined "Interactive Voice Reponses

System- IVR" (Col 6, lines 40-50), (Col 4, lines 40-50) (postmaster- email address is translated

and mail is delivered), (Col 6, lines 60-67). It is well known in the art that each email account

has to have an associated administrator, postmaster and the status of the account.

Conclusion

1.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

US Patent No. 6,434,600 by Waite et al teaches about a method and system for securely

delivering electronic mail to host having dynamic address.

US Patent No. 5,930,474 by Dunwoth et al teaches about an internet organizer for

accessing geographically and topically based information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Michael S. A. Delgado whose telephone number is 703-305-

8057. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4.30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (703)308-5221. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MD
March 10, 2004

DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100